AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE(tm) REPORT #1261 - OCT. 12, 2001

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1261 with a release date of Friday, October 12th, 2001 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The FCC says “yes” to S-D-R. This story is first on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1261 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: FCC APPROVES SDR

The FCC has taken the first steps in making Software Defined Radio or S-D-R a household word. This, as the regulatory agency adopts rules changes to authorize and begin deployment for a new generation of two way radio gear. Amateur Radio Newsline’s Bruce Tennant, K6PZW has more:

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The Action took place on Friday September 14th at an open meeting in Washington D-C but the announcement was all but lost in the events occurring in New York City and the Pentagon only three days earlier. But what’s important is that this First Report and Order removes many barriers to entry of Software Defined Radio enabled products to the marketplace. And the new rules do allow manufacturers and operators of such devices to reconfigure them after they have been deployed in the field -- including -- possibly -- ham radio gear. This, says the FCC. will speed up the introduction of advanced technology and new services.

The new rules say that software modifications to an S-D-R can be made through what the FCC calls permissive change. The FCC describes this as a totally new form of filing process where the FCC identification number will not have to be changed nor will the equipment have to be relabeled each time its purpose is revised. In fact, the FCC says that it will permit use of an optional electronic label for S-D-R gear in which the FCC identification number could be displayed using a liquid crystal or similar screen. This will allow another party to obtain an equipment approval in its name and take over responsibility for compliance with operating rules that were the domain of the previous licensee.

The Commission has also adopted requirements saying that the license grant holder must take adequate steps to prevent the unauthorized software modification to S-D-R gear. But so far it has not set up any specific security requirements.

In Los Angeles, I’m Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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More information on Software Defined Radio is on the web at several locations. The subscription S-D-R forum is the best. Its in cyberspace at www.sdrforum.org (W5YI Report, SDR Website, ARNewsline(tm))

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AMERICA UNDER ATTACK: SATERN SAYS HAM HELP STILL NEEDED IN NYC

The last federal rescue crew left the World Trade Center disaster scene on Saturday, October 6th leaving New York officials to continue the nearly month-old effort to locate nearly 5,000 bodies buried in the rubble. The Urban Search and Rescue Task Force was the last of 20 Federal Emergency Management Agency teams sent in after the September 11 terrorist attacks that collapsed the twin towers, but their departure does not mean work is winding down. In fact, one volunteer agency says that ham radio operators will still be needed there for some time. Amateur Radio Newsline’s Henry Feinberg reports from near the scene.

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Its the Salvation Army that needs radio operators to support the organization's World Trade Center relief operation in New York City. And even though it has cut one shift of radio operators the relief agency says that it still needs fresh Amateur Radio ham operators on a daily basis until further notice.

In a statement to the ARRL Letter, Jeff Schneller, N2HPO who is coordinating the Salvation Army Team Emergency Response or SATERN Network says that he is still short of people. Schneller says that the midnight to 8 AM shift has been suspended but they still needs six Amateur Radio operators per shift -- a total of 12 per day -- for the indefinite future.

SATERN needs these operators with their own base station radio gear at the Kennedy Airport warehouse set up from about 8 AM until about 9 PM -- possibly broken into shifts. SATERN also needs operators to ride with trucks to provide communication. If you can help, please visit http://www.satern.org for the latest information.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I’m Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ, 15 miles from ‘ground zero’ in West Orange New Jersey.

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The Salvation Army said it's sending additional personnel from the Midwest to New York City to assist those who have been on duty since September 11th. In the area of ham radio, so far some 40 Amateur Radio operators have turned out to help support the Salvation Army relief effort with some coming from as far away as Missouri, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida. (ARRL, SATERN, published news reports)

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AMERICA UNDER ATTACK: TERRORISM ATTACK CUES EAS DEBATE

When should the nations Emergency Alert System or E-A-S be activated? According to the trade publication Radio World, experts are debating that question because the E-A-S was not used following the September 11th terrorist attacks on New York’s World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Richard Rudman, W6TIA, is the chairman of the Emergency Alert System National Advisory Committee. He also chairs the Los Angeles County local E-A-S group. Rudman says that since the incidents that the national committee has

recommended to the FCC that changes be made if a similar attack takes place again.

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Richard Rudman W6TIA: "The Emergency Alert System -- at the local level -- ties into local emergency management. What I am suggesting is that we have to look at the elements of the critical infrastructure that might possibly have warnings based on the current threat and make sure that they are tired into local emergency management properly so that a decision can be made to issue an E-A-S warning if it is appropriate."

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The question of whether an E-A-S civil warning should have been triggered has stirred strong debate among those subscribed to an on-line discussion remailer. Rudman says that the job of the E-A-S is to alert the public before an actual event occurs, rather than after the fact. He says that with the immediate live media coverage of the strikes on the two locations that the need for an E-A-S warning was lessened.

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Richard Rudman W6TIA: "First of all, there wasn't enough information to give a clear warning of what was going on. You might as well have just put out an E-A-S message with one word -- 'panic.'"

"At the time that you get a warning you really have to have other information. I often say that our job -- quite often -- is to take people from the fear of the unknown to fear of the known. If you don't do that right, all you are doing is confusing people and possibly instilling panic."

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Not everyone agrees. Radio World reports some speculation that there was enough time between the two plane crashes in New York that issuing an E-A-S alert might have saved additional lives.

The E-A-S was developed in 1994 to replace the then aging Emergency Broadcast System as a tool for the President of the United States and others to warn the public about emergency situations. But President George W. Bush chose instead to go directly to the mass media and did not issue an Emergency Alert Notification on the day of the terrorist attacks. As a result, E-A-S played no role in alerting the public to the emergency situations. (Radio World)

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AMERICA UNDER ATTACK: REPEAL THE ECPA SO AMATEURS CAN MONITOR FOR TERRORISTS

A Michigan ham says its time for congress to repeal the Electronic Communications Privacy Act and lest SWL's monitor the cellular frequencies foe terrorist activities. Lloyd Ellsworth, NE8I, is circulating a letter to congress on the VHF Reflector that says the events of September 11th warrant giving the public the ability to again monitor cellular communications and report possible threats to the nations security onto authorities.

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Lloyd Ellsworth NE8I: “If you have an area [of spectrum] -- for example 800 to 900 MHz -- where cellphones operate -- a terrorist could also conveniently operate there and not easily be caught. You would have someone specialized who had that [monitoring] equipment to receive him.”

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As Ellsworth’s letter notes, the Electronic Communications Privacy Act forbids Americans from using a radio scanner receiver other device from eavesdropping cell phone and certain other radio communications. It also forbids the importation or sale in the country of equipment capable of interception of these signals. But says Ellsworth, these are tools and skills which any knowledgeable terrorist can easily use against America and Americans. And we all know that terrorists don’t play by the rules.

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Lloyd Ellsworth NE8I: “What I am concerned with is if a terrorist is able to freely operate and stands a very small chance of being caught while conducting some communications in that band -- they will.”
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Ellsworth says that repealing the E-C-P-A will even the playing field by giving law abiding Americans a way to listen for suspicious cellular phone calls or other radio signals that can be reported directly to an appropriate agency. Ellsworth notes that this would allow the average citizen, including police and law enforcement to directly to contribute fighting terrorism. Ellsworth adds that this would also put any terrorist on notice that any radio communications he or she may use is likely to be detected, intercepted and used against them. (ARNewsline(tm))

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BREAK 1

This is ham radio news coming to you from the United States of America. We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world, including the Radio Club of El Cajon serving El Cajon California.

(5 sec pause here)

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ENFORCEMENT: WARNING TO FISHERMEN GETS THEM OFF TWO METERS

It appears as if a warning letter was enough to get at least four ham fishing enthusiasts off of the two meter band. This, according to FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth who says that he has spoken with some of them and those operators are gone:

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Riley Hollingsworth: “We had warned eight commercial fisherman in Alaska

about operating on two meters without a license on the fishing vessel Evack and the fishing vessel Phoenix. Now four of these fishermen have called us or been in touch with us and apparently in addition to Marine equipment they were using amateur 2 meter handie-talkies. They have assured us that they have stopped using the [Amateur] equipment and our independent information indicates that too.”.
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Hollingsworth says that his office is still waiting to hear from the other remaining radio users. (FCC, RAIN)

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ENFORCEMENT: DON’T USE HAM GEAR WHILE HUNTING IF YOU ARE NOT A HAM

Fishing vessels are not the only unlicensed users showing up on the ham bands. In many areas it hunting season, and some of those on the prowl using amateur radio are not hams. The FCC’s Hollingsworth says that the agency has now warned four hunters in West Virginia about using unlicensed amateur gear while out hunting. (FCC, RAIN)

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ENFORCEMENT: VK JAMMER FINED $3000 (AU)

The United States is not the only place bringing radio regulatory violators to justice. Q- News reports that the Australian Communications Authority has successfully prosecuted a man who cost a courier company an estimated $80,000 when he interfered with its two-way radio system.

In an all to familiar scenario here in the United States, the man who is an ex-employee of the company, played music over the two-way channel when the company was trying to pass on information to its drivers. Prosecution came after a long investigation by the Australian Communications Authority which direction finding equipment to track down the offender.   He was fined $3000 after pleading guilty in Sydney's Downing Center Local Court to three charges of operating a radio transmitter without a license.

The Australian Communications Authority New South Wales Compliance Team Manager is Tony George. He says that the A-C-A works hard to detect unauthorized operation of radio transmitters. George added that the agency will act quickly to prosecute offenders. (Q-News, ACA)

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RESCUE RADIO: HAMS CALLED OUT AFTER TEXAS BRIDGE COLLAPSE

Ham radio was called out after disaster struck in South Texas early on the morning of September 15th. This, after a 240-foot section of the Queen Isabella Causeway between South Padre Island and Port Isabel, Texas, collapsed after barges slammed into the bridge supports.

The mishap sent several vehicles plummeting into the water 80 feet below and claimed 11 lives. The Texas Department of Public Safety contacted John Teer, AK5Z, to request Amateur Radio assistance with communications, because all phone lines between South Padre Island and the mainland had been severed.

The ARRL Letter reports that Teer was able to get volunteers to place at the both the South Padre Island and the Port Isabell Emergency Operations Centers. The Department of Public Safety provided boat transportation to the Island for one operator. The hams then provided 2-meter communication for government and Red Cross officials on for two days until landline telephone and cellular service could be restored. Volunteering their services along with Teer were Pat Patterson, N5SLI, Virginia Scarth, KC5SAM, Ed Scarth, W8AHU, and Gregg Sargent, KAZ0ARS. (ARRL)

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EMERGENCY COMMS: CELL PHONE LOCATOR DELAYED TO DEC 2005

People waiting for the cellular telephone industry to institute automatic emergency locating technology will have to wait some more. This, after the FCC gives some of the nation's largest mobile phone carriers more time to develop technology that allows emergency personnel to quickly locate callers who dial 911 from wireless phones.

ATT Wireleess, Cingular, Nextel, Sprint and Verizon had sought implementation schedule delays based on problems in obtaining the needed equipment from suppliers. The Federal Communications Commission mandated back in 1996 that all cellular phone companies have some location equipment in place and operational by 2002. Its now been pushed back to December 31st 2005. A similar delay was granted to VoiceStream last year. (Published news reports)

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RADIO RULES: ANOTHER MASS CORES CONVERSION COMING

The ARRL Letter says that before the switchover to the new and mandatory Commission Registration System on December 3rd, the FCC plans to do a mass conversion from its current Universal Licensing System database.

The FCC established the Commission Registration System or CORES last year and has been in the process of implementing it. Once it becomes mandatory, everyone doing business with the FCC -- licensed or not -- must obtain and use a 10-digit F-C-C Registration Number -- or F-R-N.

The FCC calls the move is a first step toward streamlining fee collection and tracking. Many amateurs registered with the current Universal Licensing System were assigned an F-R-N by CORES in a mass conversion last year. Those who got one were notified by mail. (ARRL, FCC)

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CONVENTIONS: DARA SAYS PLAN EARLY FOR HAMVENTION 2001

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association says that you should plan now to attend the 51st annual Dayton Hamvention. We have this report on the very special reasons why.

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Dayton Hamvention 2002 is slated for next May 17 to the 19th. And in keeping with President Bush’s call for America to return to business as usual, the

planners of the world's largest amateur radio gathering and trade show have sent out an early flyer. A flyer that tells everyone that the show will go on and that it will be bigger and better than ever before.

How do you make the best even better? How about the Hamvention's new "All You Can Ride Option" advance purchase package. For a $3 additional fee over the price of a normal $17 advance purchase ticket price, show attendees can ride to and from the HARA Arena an unlimited number of times. If you wait till you get to Dayton it will cost you $22 not including bus service. Buying last minute bus rides will cost another $2 a day or $5 for the weekend. So the $3 in advance is quite a deal.

But that's not all. If you post mark your ticket order before November 10th, you will also receive a limited edition Hamvention 2002 souvenir program. These normally sell an additional $5 at the door. And early reservations also get entered into the new Hamvention Gift Certificate Contest. Here, two ticket holders will be randomly picked to receive a $250 gift certificate redeemable for cash at Hamvention 2002.

For more information write to the Dayton Hamvention, Post Office Box 964, Dayton Ohio 45401. Or you can visit the Hamvention website at www.hamvention.org.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Rick Johnson, KA9VZD.

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Amateur Radio Newsline is already at work planning the Ham Radio Town Meeting for Hamvention 2002. Details on this in an upcoming newscast. (DARA)

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CONVENTIONS: ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT EXPO

Don't forget about the annual Electronic Equipment Expo, which has moved to Seattle from Bellevue this year. The dates are October 24th & 25th at the Stadium Exhibition Center in Seattle Washington and admission is free. The event is co-sponsored by Society of Broadcast Engineers Chapter 16. More information and online registration is at www.emexpo.org. (Portland SBE Newsletter)

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HAM RADIO BUSNESS: THE HAM RADIO MARKETPLACE.COM

The Ham Radio Market located at is an Internet web board focused on radio equipment and "Ham Radio Stuff". According to President and Founder Bob Hutchinson, N5CNN, it is operated as a public service for the ham radio community by the Wireless Industry Association which does not itself buy or sell anything. For more information visit http://hamradiomarket.com on the word wide web. (VHF Reflector)

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BREAK 2

From the United States of America, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline, with links to the world from our only official website www.arnewsline.org

(5 sec pause here)

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ARNEWSLINE(tm) SUPPORT FUND UPDATE: ARNEWSLINE(tm) IS NOW A 501(C)(3) NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION

Ladies and gentlemen, with a long awaited announcement, here is Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund Administrator, Andy Jarema, N6TCQ:

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Just about a month ago I recorded an announcement similar to this. It was to be aired on newscast number 1257 which went to air on September 14th. After the events of September 11th, I felt it was best to delay a few weeks. As this is good news, I really do not want to hold off any longer.

Over the past two years we have all been working to bring Amateur Radio Newsline out from its old Westlink Radio Network identity and into its own individuality. This meant several things including a subtle name change, branding of our new name and revamping our website. It also meant becoming a self sustaining not for profit corporation. I am delighted to report that last goal has now been achieved.

Earlier this year, Amateur Radio Newsline Inc. was granted status as a California non-profit corporation. Then, in late August the I-R-S granted our petition and the Amateur Radio Newsline, Inc. became a Federal 501 (c)(3) tax exempt not for profit corporation. Yes, that’s right, as of August 20th, Newsline, as the programming arm of the old Westlink Radio Network is officially gone and the Amateur Radio Newsline as an entity unto itself came into being.

All of this was made possible by a generous donation from a Newsline supporter and benefactor who we are not at liberty to name. But it was that person to whom we at the Amateur Radio Newsline owe a deep debt of gratitude. So we pause a moment and say thank you. Thank your for helping make a dream of almost a quarter of a century become a reality.

We also want to thank the wonderful folks at the Holmsburg Amateur Radio Club in Pennsylvania under whose not-for-profit charter we have operated since incorporating as the Westlink Amateur Radio Network in the 1980’s. They are the people who said to us -- here is a place to start. They have been an ardent supporter of what we do almost since we began our newscasts in the 1970’s. We will always consider them as being an important part of the Amateur Radio Newsline family.

Our final note this week. Just a reminder that the address for the Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund still is PO Box 660937, Arcadia, CA 91066. If you missed it, don’t worry. It will be given again at the end of this week's newscast. For the Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund report, I’m Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

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On behalf of everyone involved in the Amateur Radio Newsline, a big thank you to Andy and to our secret contributor for making it all happen. (ARNewsline(tm) Support Fund)

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T-HUNTING: THE OWLS ARE BACK

Its fall and that means its migration time for numerous species. That includes that ever elusive Burrowing Owls. Here’s Joe Moell, K0OV, with the latest.

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The fall 2001 migration period for Burrowing owls is beginning right now. Once again, Amateur Radio operators and VHF monitoring enthusiasts are being asked to help researchers study the patterns of this diminishing species. In addition to owls from the plains of Saskatchewan and Alberta, which hams have listened for since 1998, we're now being asked to monitor for 30 owls that were tagged near Moses Lake in eastern Washington state. Vicki Garcia of the University of Arizona wants our help, because it is uncertain if these birds spend the winter in California, or Baja California, or they go eastward to Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico or even to Texas.

The Canadian owl tags are in the 172 MHz range, while the Washington owl tags are near 150 MHz. If you live in a central state from North Dakota to Texas, or in any state to the west of that line, and you have sensitive monitoring equipment for these frequencies, your help is needed. For all the frequencies and monitoring information, go to my Web site, www.homingin.com. HomingIn is one word.

 If you aren't on the Web, send e-mail to owls@homingin.com or postal mail to my callbook address. Again, that website is www.homingin.com

Thanks in advance for your help. From southern California, this is Joe Moell K-zero-Oscar-Victor for Amateur Radio Newsline

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If you missed any of that, simply take your web browser to www.homingin.com. (K0OV)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: AMSAT-NA ANNOUNCES BOD ELECTION RESULTS

Some names in the news. This as AMSAT North America announces the results of its recent Board of Directors election. Barry Baines, WD4ASW, Dick Daniels, W4PUJ, Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, and Bill Tynan, W3XO, will retain their seats on the Board for the next two years. Bruce Paige, KK5DO is the first alternate and Dick Hambly, W2GPS is the second alternate. Paige and Hambly will serve until the next election. (ARRL, AMSAT-NA, others)

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NET OPERATIONS: NEW NORTH TEXAS 222 MHZ NET

Dave Duval, K5UGM, in Dallas says that local hams are trying to start a new North Texas 222 MHz Net. They are also looking for station to check-in. The net operates on 222.105 MHz on Friday nights at 8 Central Time. If you think you can make the path, Bill says that the net will be listening for you. (VHF Reflector)

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DX

In D-X, word that the same crew that aired 5U2K, 5U3T and 5U5A in March of 2001 will go back to Niger in January and February of 2002. This for a 2 week DXpedition with a larger crew that will include 3 to 4 new operators from Italy and the United States. At least 3 stations will be put on air with special attention paid to 80 and 160 meters. Overall operations will take place on 160 through 10 meters on CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK 31. Another station on 6 meters will operate CW and SSB. Callsigns will be announced at a later date.

Also, the electronic logbook is now on-line for the August 3rd tro the 5th K3L and National Lighthouse Weekend operation from Annapolis, Maryland. Stations who worked the AM Expedition to Thomas Point Lighthouse in the Chesapeake Bay can now check whether they made it to the official logbook. A photographic QSL certificate will soon be available. The QSL manager and other details are now posted at www.amfone.net/K3L. (Various DX sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: HAM RADIO VS. A RUNAWAY BLIMP

And finally this week, what do you do if a blimp gets away? The answer. Call out ham radio. Amateur Radio Newsline's David Black, KB4KCH has the high flying details.

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For members of the North Central Missouri Skywarn team…weather spotting means being on the lookout for hail, wall clouds and other severe weather…but the night of September 7th brought a situation they won't forget anytime soon. Severe
thunderstorms were moving through the Kansas City area that evening, keeping amateur
radio Skywarn groups busy, assisting the National Weather Service. In the town of Trenton,
Glenn Briggs, KB0RPJ, was serving as Net Control for his spotters when heard a request he didn't believe at first.

--
IN We were discussing the squall line
OUT find it for them.
--

The blimp belonged to MetLife and had been parked at Kansas City's Airport. It was scheduled for aerial photography during the following day's Kansas City Chief's football game. But mother nature had other plans for this airship as Briggs found out.

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IN The t’ storms went thru and as it was moored at the downtown airport
OUT flying thru the air
--

For Briggs and his fellow hams, spotting suddenly brought forth a new challenge.

--
IN it was kind of interesting to try to look at the ..
OUT hit by a blimp
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The blimp was in the air, flying out of control, for at least 45 minutes. The next task was to find it. Briggs says hams started a blimp watch.

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IN We had begun sending hams out to try to track a NE trajectory
OUT land on a truck
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A team of amateur radio spotters went to the scene and confirmed that blimp had been found. The crash site was a farm in the community of Chillicothe--that’s about 85 miles northeast of the Kansas City airport. The blimp fell to earth after its self deflation system activated. No one was injured. Members of the Skywarn team assisted with notifying the FAA and other officials in Kansas City. For Glenn Briggs and his fellow North Central Missouri Skywarn team members,
September 7th is a night to remember.

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IN I would say it’s the most unusual
OUT our spotters will remember for years to come
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Future weather spotting nets will undoubtedly include the usual…hail, high winds,
maybe even tornadoes. But at least one Skywarn team has the additional experience
of blimp spotting.

From Birmingham, Alabama, I’m David Black, KB4KCH, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm).

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And what else is there to say? (ARNewsline(tm))

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, Amateur News Weekly, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio

Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the W5YI Report and Australia's Q-News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that Amateur Radio Newsline scripts are now available weekly on a self maintained list at Yahoogroups. To have a free text edition of this newscast delivered each week by e-mail go to www.yahoogroups.com, follow the directions and sign up for the ARNewsline list.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, KC5MFA in New Orleans saying "God Bless America," 73, and we thank you for listening. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) is Copyright 2001. All rights reserved.